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*Comment Received From: Ann Dorsey
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On Assembly Bill 3232 Building Decarbonization Assessment

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

From: Ann Dorsey <aedorsey@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 9:42 PM
To: Castaneda, Laura@Energy <Laura.Castaneda@energy.ca.gov>
Subject: Assembly Bill 3232 Building Decarbonization Assessment Comments

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Commissioner McAllister,

I am writing to encourage you to proceed with the Building Decarbonization Assessment required by Assembly Bill 3232. It is critical that California achieve being carbon-free by 2045. Since over 25% of California's green house gas emissions come from homes and buildings, decarbonization is essential. One example of why this is necessary, is that the amount of gas used for water and space heating in homes and buildings is more than all of the state's power plants.

There are other advantages to decarbonization including improved health and the creation of jobs. Air quality inside smaller apartments can exceed state and national air-quality standards for NO₂ after an hour of cooking on a gas stove, as was found in UCLA research. Over 100,000 full-time equivalent jobs in various sectors of the economy would be created by electrifying 100% of California's existing and new buildings by 2045. Even with the jobs lost in the fossil fuel industry, this would still be a net increase.

There are concerns about the cost of electrification, but when constructing new all-electric buildings there were both reduced construction times and costs, which could support affordable housing goals. Even so, making the transition to electrification in existing buildings could be difficult. I urge the Commission to support low-income and disadvantaged communities in making this transition by creating programs such as consumer education, workforce outreach and training, new financial incentives and rebates, as well as on-the-ground support to make the switch from gas to electric.

It will also be necessary for the Commission and state to establish policies that will support existing home and building owners in transitioning to all-electric appliances. Great models to follow include the California Solar Initiative and the state's EV programs, both of which have helped to accelerate and transform the rooftop solar and EV markets.

Finally, I urge the Commission to only include electrification in meeting Assembly Bill 3232 requirements. I have concerns regarding the use of biomethane because it has the same air quality, leakage, and safety risks as conventional gas. Additionally, academic and industry studies have determined that biomethane could at best only replace 2.5% of gas use in California buildings.

I support the transition to electrification of homes and buildings and want you to take the actions necessary to make that happen.

Thank you,

Ann Dorsey
Northridge, CA 91325